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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO JC

United States Senate

August 13, 1980

Respectfully referred to:

Honorable J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

U.S.S.
Spark Matsunaga

Form #2

1980 AUG 20 PM 12 15

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Re: Kim Dae Jung court-martial in Korea
From: Tokuma, Utsunomiya

(3)

AUG -7 PM 2-21

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS
DIET OF JAPAN
1-7-1 NAGATA-CHO,
CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO 100

August 6, 1980

The Honorable Spark M. Matsunaga
The Senate
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Senetor Matsunaga:

I am writing this letter in a hurry, as a member of Japan's House of Councillors who believes in and deeply respects the democratic traditions of the United States, and as a friend of the great political leader of Korea, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, and am having my secretary go to Washington to personally deliver this letter to you.

As you know, Mr. Kim Dae Jung is about to be tried by a court martial on charges of plotting rebellion and other crimes which I know from my personal relations with him are inconceivable. What I fear the most is that he will be sentenced to death, or, at least, to life imprisonment.

Not only is the cruel fate facing Mr. Kim Dae Jung a serious matter from the standpoint of human rights, but an issue that can have a profound and fatal impact on both Japan and the United States, which have long been allies and friends of the Republic of Korea.

As you know, Mr. Kim Dae Jung is a political leader who, inspired by the traditions of freedom and democracy of the United States, has dedicated his life to the task of resorting freedom and democracy in Korea for many years.

The fact that Mr. Kim Dae Jung is about to be tried by the present military leaders of Korea and the fact that he probably will be sentenced to death will bring to nought the sacrifice of tens of thousands of Ameri an youths who died in Korea and the millions of dollars in military expenditures by the United States over the past 30-odd years in defending freedom in Korea, and the efforts of Japan to provide economic assistance and cooperation to Korea at the expense of Japanese tax payers.

I am afraid that if Mr. Kim Dae Jung is sentenced to death fresh disorders will break out in Korea, which could well lead to a new war on the Korean Peninsula. The recent spread of unrest and anger among the Korean people at the long years of continued military rule is of great concern to us.

In Japan, today, both the Government, and the ruling and opposition parties are working to save Mr. Kim Dae Jung's life. However, there is a limit to what Japan can do in exerting influence of the military regime in Korea which seems to be running wild.

For this reason and in view of the seriousness of the situation, I am appealing to you as an influential political leader of the United States to turn your attention to this situation in Korea and the plight of Mr. Kim Dae Jung and to exert your influence in saving Mr. Kim Dae Jung from the terrible fate that surely awaits him and, thereby, help overcome the crisis now facing democracy in the Republic of Korea.

Sincerely,

Tokuma Utsunomiya

Tokuma, UTSUNOMIYA